

CITY OF HUTTO, TEXAS

2014

Year in Review





The City of Hutto's Vision: To passionately serve the public through innovation, sustainability, and diversity for the enrichment of current and future generations.



5%

Population Growth



8

New Businesses



6%

Sales Tax Growth

Looking Back: Hutto in 2014



● Mayor Debbie Holland

Happy New Year, Hutto! While we open a new chapter and look forward to all of the opportunities that 2015 will no doubt bring, let us take a moment and look back at all that we have accomplished in 2014.

2014 was a year to be remembered! Once again we came together to celebrate Hutto's thriving Downtown with an array of special events: the Home & Garden Show, Olde Tyme Days, Small Business Saturday, the Christmas Tree Lighting, and SNOW for the holidays! All of these events allow for us to come together and celebrate as a community.

In 2014, we also opened the YMCA and doubled the size of the Hutto Public Library. Both offer countless opportunities for our families to play, learn and grow together.

We can also applaud our technological strides from the past year as we launched the 'Hutto Now' mobile application, the web based 'RequestTracker' and digital sign-up for Hutto Parks and Recreation activities. All of these efforts help us stay connected and informed. The more we communicate, the better we can serve YOU!

Along the lines of better service, the City's efforts to acquire a grocery store

are unwavering. In 2014, a comprehensive study was conducted to show retailers that choosing Hutto is a sound investment. However, the plans don't end there. In 2015, city representatives will continue to seek out prospective stores who will be a perfect fit for our needs.

living facility is in the works. Let's not forget the Co-Op! The City broke ground on December 30th for the restoration of the gin building to serve as an open air pavilion. Construction on the new Hutto South Wastewater facility is also expected to continue through 2015.

***Great things are headed our way
and I am excited to be a part of it.
I encourage your feedback and
ideas. Together we will make Hutto
unstoppable in 2015.***

Looking forward to 2015, more great changes are expected. We believe residential growth will continue. Plus, with the expansion of Carl Stern Boulevard and the FM 685 project, commercial growth is inevitable. Construction on the Hampton Inn & Suites is underway, Starbucks broke ground, and a senior

In closing, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as the Mayor of Hutto. Great things are headed our way, and I am excited to be a part of it! I encourage your feedback and ideas. Together we will make Hutto unstoppable in 2015!

Hutto: Named one of the “Top 10 Best Places in Texas”

The City of Hutto was recently named #9 on the list of the “10 Best Places in Texas” according to a report by real estate website Movoto. The study evaluated measurable criteria such as amenities, quality of life, crime rate, unemployment, and commute time as part of the analysis.

Hutto, according to the Movoto website, is “just outside of Austin, in Williamson County. Hutto scored well in many criteria in our analysis-plus, it has the benefit of being just outside of Austin where there’s always something going on. With over 2,700 total amenities, Hutto came in as the 40th in this criteria, beating out over 200 others places. It also had some of the lowest student to teacher ratios, 14 to 1 and highest rent prices in our analysis, a median price of \$1,385 per month, indicating a high desirability to live in the area. To top it off, Hutto only saw 913 crimes per 100,000 people in the last year, making it the sixth safest in our entire list.”



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Meet the Members of the Hutto City Council



Debbie Holland

Mayor

Debbie Holland has been a resident of Hutto since 1977 and was elected to City Council in May of 2004. On May 14, 2011 she was elected the first female Mayor of Hutto. Mayor Holland serves on the CAPCOG Executive Board, Temple Foundation Board, Lions Club and the Growth Guidance Committee.



Anne Cano

Place 1

Anne Cano was first elected to City Council in May 2009 and was re-elected in May 2011 and May 2014, with her term expiring in May of 2017. She has been a resident of Hutto since May 2006. Currently, Anne serves on the Hutto Economic Development Board, Leadership and Legislative Committee, and is a graduate of Hutto Citizens' University.



Paul Prince

Place 2

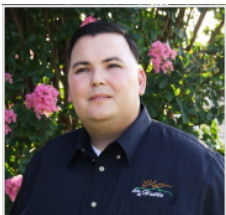
Paul Prince was first elected to Hutto City Council in May 2011, and re-elected in May of 2012, with his term expiring in May 2015. He has been a Hutto resident since 2006. Paul is a graduate of Hutto Citizens' University, serves on the Hutto Economic Development Corporation Board and the Budget & Fiscal Committee.



Ronnie Quintanilla-Perez

Place 3, Mayor Pro-tem

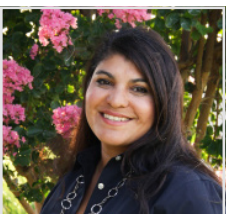
Veronica "Ronnie" Quintanilla-Perez was elected to office in May of 2004 and re-elected in May of 2006, 2008, 2010, & 2013. Her current term will expire in May 2016. She has been a resident of Hutto since 2002. Ronnie has served as Mayor Pro-Tem for two years. She also serves on the Budget & Fiscal Committee, Leadership & Legislative Committee and is the Texas Municipal League Regional President.



Michael Smith

Place 4

Michael J. Smith was elected to office in June of 2009 and was re-elected in May 2011 and May 2014. His current term expires in May of 2017. He has been a resident of Hutto since 2005. Michael is a member of the Hutto Chamber Board, the Leadership & Legislative Committee, the Hutto EDC and a Hutto Citizens' University graduate.



Melanie Rios

Place 5

Melanie Rios was elected to the office in 2009. Melanie's term expires in May 2015. Melanie currently serves on the Texas Municipal League Board, the Association of Hispanic Municipal Officials, the Hutto Education Foundation, the Hutto Youth Advisory Council, the YMCA Board and the Growth Guidance Committee. Melanie is also a graduate of Hutto Citizens' University.



Max Yeste

Place 6

Max V. Yeste was first elected to City Council in December 2010. His current term expires in May 2016. He has lived in Hutto since 2007. Max is part of the Hutto Lions Club and serves as a member of the Growth Guidance Committee. Max is a Hutto Citizens' University graduate and has served on the Hutto Centennial Celebration Committee.



Council Committees

Fiscal & Budgetary Committee

The role of the Fiscal & Budgetary Committee is to review quarterly investment reports, financial reports, receive auditor's reports, recommend changes to the fiscal policy, oversee outside agency funding, and recommend allocation of hotel tax funds.

Growth Guidance Committee

The role of the Growth Guidance Committee is to manage the renovation of the Co-Op site, make recommendations to the Tax Abatement Policy, recommend changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan and make necessary changes to the Solid Waste Franchise.

Leadership & Legislative Committee

The role of the Leadership & Legislative Committee is to propose legislative agendas, recommend Board & Commission appointments and chairpersons, recommend changes to Council Protocol Policy, select Hutto Citizens' University class members and represent the City in the Hutto Coordinating Committee.

Council Chat Sessions

Every Saturday, a member of the Hutto City Council is available at Baked N'Sconed to discuss issues, concerns, and answer any questions from the public.

All seven members of the City Council take turns in participating in these chat sessions. The purpose of these meetings are focused on providing quality City services by inviting input and inquiries from citizens to better understand the community's needs.

No appointments are necessary and all area residents and business owners are encouraged to stop in to say hello.

When special, city-sponsored events are held, no chat session is scheduled in order to allow the City Council to participate in community activities.

Baked N'Sconed is located at 143 Exchange Blvd., Ste. 100. Chat sessions are from 10:00am - Noon.



Technology

The Hutto City Council established the Technology Task Force in April 2013 to provide an independent analysis of the City's technology infrastructure and to find ways to improve the flow of communication between the City and the citizens. The task force made up of Hutto residents and business owners, put in tremendous effort to serve the Hutto community by helping improve our operations and service. Their efforts have resulted in the hiring of two key positions for the City, the Information Technology Manager and the Public Information Officer. Furthermore, the Technology Task Force was instrumental in implementing the new HuttoNow app that is now available for smartphones.

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HuttoNow App



TWC Channel 10



youtube.com/HuttoTX



NOTIFY ME: Alerts

Texas Municipal Excellence Award



Top (from left): Paul Prince, Dr. Doug Killian, Brandy Baker, Max Yeste, Ronnie Quintanilla-Perez, Melanie Rios, Michael Smith, Pastor Marcus Bigott. Bottom (from left): Anne Cano, Judy Hayes, Patti Gilmore, Mayor Debbie Holland, Pastor Alan McGrath and Karen Daly

At the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference, the City of Hutto once again earned acclaim by receiving the 2014 Municipal Excellence Award in the City Spirit category for cities with a population of 25,000 or less for the Hutto Has Heart Program. While the City of Hutto received the award, it was earned through the hard work of the entire community including the Hutto ISD, Hutto Family YMCA, and numerous other organizations, local churches, and dedicated individuals. Hutto Has Heart (HHH) started in 2011 to provide assistance to those impacted by the Bastrop Fires. The City, Hutto ISD, YMCA, churches, and other community organizations recognized the bonds that were forged through the process of assisting others and continued to meet in order to share opportunities to care for others in the Hutto community. Hutto Has Heart eventually developed into a non-profit organization that seeks to serve and empower the emotional, financial, educational, and spiritual well-being of the Hutto community by organizing and sustaining collaborative partnerships. While serving its community is key, HHH continually looks to expand the caring atmosphere developed in Hutto to others.



Organization Development

City Council Appoints New City Manager

In March 2014, Karen Daly joined the City of Hutto as the City's new City Manager. Ms. Daly previously served as the Assistant City Manager of Sugar Land. She has over 25 years of local government experience including City Manager of Greenville, TX, Assistant City Manager in Longview, TX, and Assistant to the City Manager in Arlington, TX. Since joining the City of Hutto, Ms. Daly has quickly become active in the community by joining the Hutto Rotary Club where she is now President. She is also a member of the Hutto Area Chamber of Commerce's Hutto Leadership Academy.



Parks & Recreation

The Hutto Parks & Recreation Department strives to provide Hutto residents with a variety of activities designed to get everyone outside and enjoying the community year-round. From special events, to visiting the library or taking a walk on our nearly five miles of trail, there is something for everyone to stay active! The Easter Egg Hunt, Movies in the Park, the Stampede 5K, Treats on East St. and Santa's Breakfast are just a few of the events for families to enjoy. Adults and children can also participate in one of the many sports leagues offered throughout the year.



Stampede 5K



Treats on East. St.



Movies in The Park

Downtown Events

Downtown Hutto is the place to be! In addition to the annual Old Towne Days Festival and Crawfish boil, the City added a number of new events this past year including the Christmas Tree Lighting, Downtown Christmas Fair and Home & Garden Show. These family friendly events help maintain our city's small town feel and community spirit. Look for even more events in downtown Hutto in 2015!



Home & Garden Show



Christmas Tree Lighting



Downtown Christmas Fair



Service Delivery

[Citizen Request Tracker](#)

The new Citizen Request Tracker (CRT) was launched in 2014 to give citizens an easier method to interact with the City. The CRT allows citizens, business owners, and visitors to easily submit questions and service requests online. To access this new feature, visit the City's website at www.huttotx.gov and look for the "Citizen Help Center" icon located on the right side of the page. Selecting this icon will link you to the Request Tracker main page that outlines the available categories; select the appropriate icon to report a concern, ask a question, or request information. This feature gives citizens the opportunity to communicate with City staff easily and efficiently on smart phones, tablets and computers.

['Hutto Now' Mobile App Available for Download](#)

Also in 2014, the City launched a new way for online access to City services – the HuttoNow mobile application. The application is available for download for both Android and Apple users. The HuttoNow app connects users to the City like never before. Now you can access the City's calendar, news flash, social media, and more right from your smartphone. Forget to pay your utility bill? Don't worry! You can pay it using the app!

The content available through HuttoNow is continually being updated in an effort to give citizens the most accurate and useful information. In addition, the City will soon be able to send out alerts straight to your cell phone notifying you of emergencies, road closures, and more! Download the app and sign up to receive alerts under the Notify Me section.

[Hutto Library Now Offers Digital Collection](#)

In addition to the facility expansion, the Hutto Library now offers a large digital collection of over 12,000 items including eBooks, audiobooks, music, and videos. Library card holders can borrow popular digital media anytime, anywhere by visiting the Library website www.huttotx.gov/library.

Users may browse the Library's catalog and borrow titles with a valid Library card, and enjoy them on all major computers and devices. eBooks can be read immediately on any device with an internet browser and all titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period. There are no late fees! This new service, powered by OverDrive, is free for users with a Library card. To start enjoying eBooks, audiobooks and more, visit www.huttotx.gov/library and browse the catalog.



Our Quality of Life

Hutto Family YMCA

The City of Hutto and the YMCA of Greater Williamson County partnered to construct the Hutto Family YMCA which opened in January 2014. The \$5.5 million, 27,000 square foot Hutto Family YMCA includes a teen center, child care area, indoor recreational lap and warm-water therapy pool, spa, a community kitchen, weight-lifting area, exercise machines, spin and aerobics rooms as well as a cardio theater. This project was the culmination of six years of negotiations, agreements, a bond election, public input on services and features our citizens wanted incorporated into the branch and facility design. NewQuest Properties donated approximately 5 acres for the project as part of the Town West Commons development in Hutto.

“The City of Hutto strives to provide quality programs and services for everyone to enjoy.”

Mayor Debbie Holland

Library Expansion

The Hutto Public Library opened its doors in 2008 at 205 West Street. After six years of operating in an approximately 1,200 square foot space, the Library expanded to 4,000 square feet by closing in the bay area of the old fire station. The \$78,000 expansion was made possible through a generous gift by the Friends of the Hutto Library. The Library's expansion has resulted in an increase of special events and programs like the weekly Pre-school Story Time and the Summer Reading Program.



Fiscal and Budgetary

City of Hutto Receives Bond Rating Upgrade to AA-

The City of Hutto's bond rating was upgraded one notch from "A+" to "AA-" with a stable outlook by Standard & Poor's. Standard and Poor's is one of the leading financial analytic firms, providing credit ratings and risk evaluation. They operate globally in over 100 countries providing credit information and analysis.

A city's bond rating is based on the overall fiscal conditions of the city, including debt repayment ability, financial policies, and reserve balances. The stable outlook reflects Standard & Poor's opinion that the City will likely maintain very strong reserves and liquidity. Higher bond ratings improve the City's ability to issue debt and secure a lower interest rate for the term of the bonds. The City's last bond rating upgrade was in 2008, when the rating was increased from "BBB+" to "A+".

**STANDARD
& POOR'S**

Highest Grade Credit	AAA	Good Grade Credit	BBB+ BBB BBB-
Very High Grade Credit	AA+ AA AA-	Speculative Grade Credit	BB+ BB BB-
High Grade Credit	A+ A A-	Very Speculative Credit	B+ B B-

Texas Water Development Board Loan

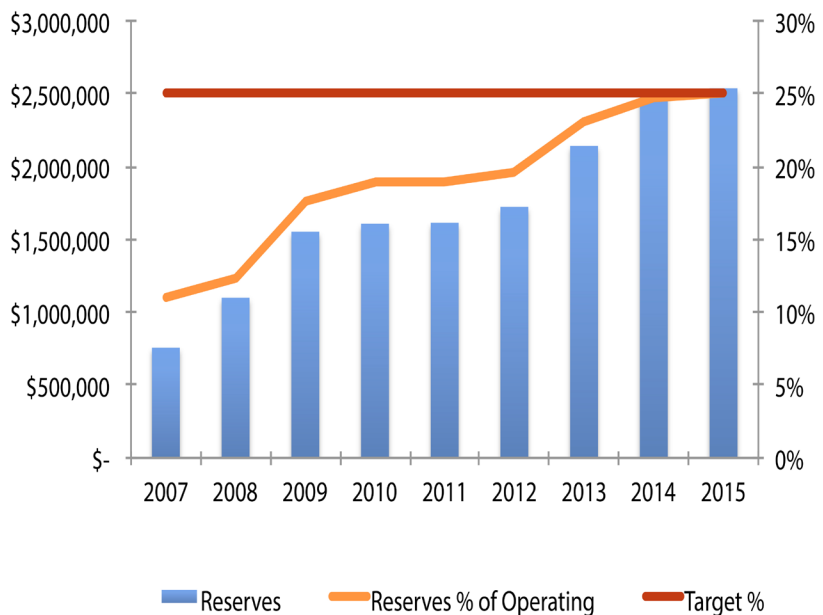
Hutto was able to secure a low-interest loan made available through the Texas Water Development Board (TWBD) to finance a waste water treatment project, saving an estimated \$9M in costs. The savings are due to the City utilizing the TWBD program, the City's AA- credit rating and strong financial standing. The funds will be used for the construction of a new two- million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant that will be completed in 2016. The plant, which will be located south of Hutto along Brushy Creek, is required in order for Hutto to continue to grow. The current plant located on CR 199 will continue to be operated; however, it was determined that it was not feasible to expand the plant. Construction on the Hutto South plant is currently underway .

General Fund Reserves

The City of Hutto increased general fund reserves over the last few years to approximately 25% of operations, providing increased financial security in tough economic conditions. Much like a savings account, the general fund reserves helps the City to meet any unexpected or emergency costs that may arise in the future.

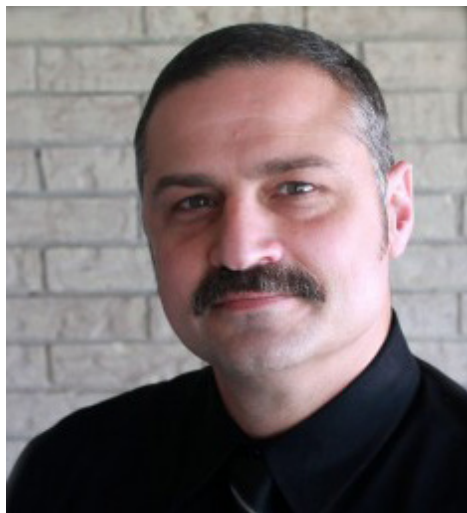
In 2006, the City Council set the goal of retaining 25% of operating costs for the general fund. At the time the goal was set, the reserves were only at 5%. Hitting the 25% goal marks a major financial milestone for the City of Hutto for 2014.

General Fund Reserves





Public Safety



Earl Morrison Selected as Hutto's Chief of Police

Chief Earl Morrison was selected as the new Chief of Police for the Hutto Police Department. He had previously served the City of Deer Park, Texas, since 2000. During his fourteen year career with the Deer Park Police Department, Morrison served a variety of roles including patrolman, detective, sergeant, and most recently lieutenant. Prior to serving the City of Deer Park, Morrison served as a correctional officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and served three years in the United States Army where he received an honorable discharge after serving as a combat medic. Following his Army service, Morrison also served three years in the Texas Army National Guard.



Serving Through Action

The men and women of the Hutto Police Department are committed to serve and protect the citizens and visitors of Hutto. In addition to doing this each day through routine police operations, the Hutto Police Department takes their call to service higher. Members of the department annually coordinate a Thanksgiving Turkey drive to provide meals to those in need in the community. The department also coordinates the annual National Night Out event to bring neighbors closer together, build community, and stop crime. The 2014 National Night Out saw nearly 2,000 residents in participating in eleven block parties across town - a record high for the City of Hutto.



Fire Insurance Rating Improved

In early 2014, the City and Hutto Fire Rescue were notified that the recent evaluation of fire protection, water supply, and emergency communications services by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) was completed and that the City's insurance rating was improving to a Class 2 rating resulting in lower property insurance rates.

By classifying a community's ability to suppress fires, the ISO helps by evaluating public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, nationwide standard that helps cities and fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. By securing lower fire insurance premiums for a community with better public fire protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services.



“I believe the true way to lead others is to serve others. I believe that this service is accomplished through open communication, respect and trust.”

*Earl Morrison,
Chief of Police*

Mobility

FM 1660 South Sidewalk

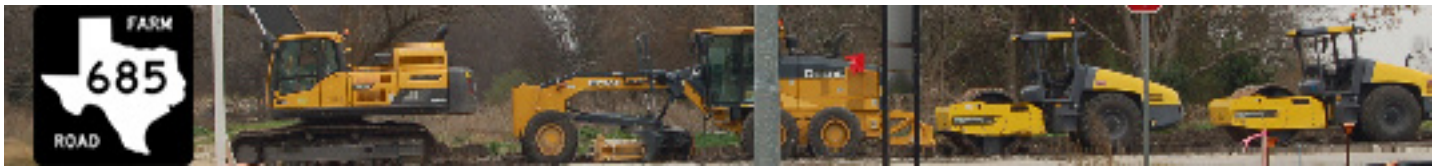
Students and families will have a new way to get around town after the completion of the FM 1660 South sidewalk. The sidewalk extends from Evans Street to CR 137. The project adds safe access between neighborhoods and to Farley Middle and Ray Elementary schools. This project was included as part of the 2009 bond referendum.

City Council Amends Ordinance Prohibiting Heavy Truck Traffic

In response to requests from citizens, the Hutto City Council amended the Code of Ordinances prohibiting heavy truck traffic on FM 1660 North from Limmer Loop to U.S. 79. The Ordinance designates Ed Schmidt Boulevard and a portion of Limmer Loop as a suitable route to divert traffic from the area of Old Town. This change helps maintain the safety and beauty of the area that primarily serves as a residential neighborhood.

FM 685 Construction Begins

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), in conjunction with the City of Hutto, began construction on the FM 685 improvements in the fall of 2014. The approximately \$14 million project is being funded through a transportation enhancement grant through the Capitol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and a local match from the City of Hutto. When finished in 2016, the roadway will feature improved safety resulting from the divided median and raised bridge, a sidewalk, and aesthetic improvements.



Infrastructure

Arterial Fence Installed Along Carl Stern and Front Street

The City completed the installation of approximately 3,600 linear feet of masonry fence material in the area near Hutto High School. Many of the wooden homeowner fences in the area were in a state of disrepair. The project was completed to provide beautification and aesthetic improvements to an area that is frequented by Hutto residents and visitors.

Water Planning

Water is an important topic for all of Williamson County as new residents are moving to the area. While Hutto is sitting comfortably with adequate water to meet current and future needs, we continue to strategize and fine tune plans so that we may continue to grow as a community. The City is currently developing a water master plan that will look at our water needs as we continue to grow. The plan will evaluate the most cost effective ways to extend infrastructure and improve service delivery. In addition, the City recently completed a water audit to ensure the City is properly accounting for water. As part of the process, the City was able to identify meters around town that are near the end of their effective life and will begin replacing those meters in 2015. The City is also installing a new automated meter infrastructure system that will help ensure accurate reads and provide more timely information to customers..

Economic Development

Grocery Store Study

The City continued its efforts this past year to attract a grocery store to Hutto by conducting a grocery store market analysis. The analysis was conducted by a retail consultant who specializes in grocery stores and who is respected for his accuracy. While we all know that Hutto is ready for a grocery store, the results of the study provide sales potential data to interested grocers. Grocers and retailers rely on this data to make decisions on store locations. City and HEDC staff are marketing the results of the study to grocers who operate in central Texas and to retail developers.

21,000 Strong and Growing

In addition to another strong year of residential growth with over 350 new houses added within the city limits, 2014 marked a big year for Hutto in terms of commercial growth. New projects to begin development in 2014 included the CVS, Hampton Inn & Suites, Beau's Specialty Meats, Hutto Family YMCA, The Trails at Carmel Creek (senior housing project), and O'Reilly's Auto Parts. This wave of commercial growth is anticipated to continue in 2015 with more projects in the works.



Gin Building 2014



Gin Building 2015

Growth Guidance

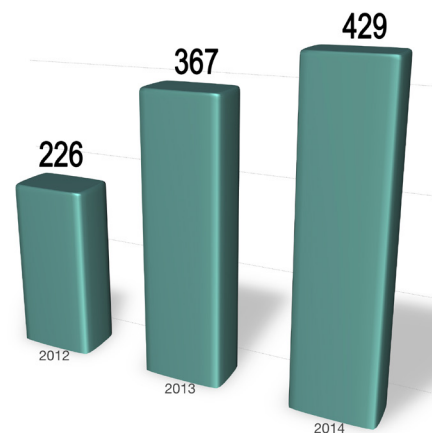
Hutto City Council Adopts Sustainable Places Project Plan

Hutto was one of five cities chosen in Central Texas to participate in the Sustainable Places Project, a regional planning initiative aimed at helping communities create livable places, consistent with local goals and values. Through a Housing and Urban Development grant facilitated by the Capital Area Planning Council of Governments (CAPCOG), the project provided professional assistance in community outreach, development planning, economic and market research, and financial planning of a catalytic investment project – all at no cost to the City of Hutto.

The overall project objective for Hutto was to plan for the growth expected to occur within the demonstration site, an area roughly between Old Town and SH 130, from US 79 to Limmer Loop. After a year of collaboration between the planning team, local stakeholders and the public, a vision was developed that includes walkable residential and commercial uses with parks, trails and roads linking the old and new. The final report includes recommended code amendments and possible overlay districts that will enable the city's vision to come to fruition. It also provides in-depth cost assessments and financing strategies that will assist the City as it pursues redevelopment of the Co-op site.

Phase 1 of the Co-Op transformation was kicked off in late December 2014 with the Gin Building restoration project. Pictured above, the iconic structure will soon become an open-air pavilion. The venue will be available for city events and will also be available for rent.

Building Permits Issued by Year



Setting the Table for the Future

City staff hosted a progressive dinner and community forum in September 2014 to gather input for the City's first comprehensive plan. Residents in attendance were treated to courses from local restaurants while others were able to view the presentation live via a web stream and provide input through social media. The event featured five stations: social equity, transportation, community development, environment and parks.

Citizens are encouraged to stay plugged into the future plans by visiting the website (huttotx.gov/futurehutto) or "like" the Facebook page ([facebook.com/futurehutto](https://www.facebook.com/futurehutto)). Look for more opportunities to provide input on the plan in 2015.



City of Hutto
401 W. Front St.
Hutto, TX 78634



BOYUM PHOTOGRAPHY

